

4. DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF CONUS FROM THE COLLECTION OF H. CUMING, ESQ., AND TWO FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE LATE MR. DENISSON. BY G. B. SOWERBY, F.L.S.

(Plate XXXII.)

CONUS SUBCARINATUS. Pl. XXXII. f. 12, 13. *Testa turbinata, sublævigata, infra rude sulcata, alba, pallidissime purpureo tincta, flammulis fuscis irregulariter angulatis longitudinalibus, medio interruptis plus minusve in fascias latus duas junctis; lateribus rectis; angulo subcarinato; spira prope angulum convexa, apice acuminato. Variat fasciis duabus latis, lineis interruptis cinctis ornata.*

*Hab.* Nicobar Islands (*Mus. Cuming*).

With something of the aspect of *C. voluminalis*, this shell differs from that species in being much more solid and broad. The angle is sharpened so as to form almost a keel. The two specimens in Mr. Cuming's cabinet are distinct varieties, one of which has two broad chestnut bands, girt by white-spotted brown lines.

CONUS STRATURATUS. Pl. XXXII. f. 14. *Testa oblonga, subpyriformis, supra subinflata, infra angustata subtorta, alba, pallidissime cæruleo tincta; maculis subquadratis pallide fuscis, in fascias duas latus dispositis, et aliis irregularibus ornata; sulcis distantibus supra medium subevanidis, infra profundis, ad fascias albas apparentibus cincta; angulo subrotundo; spira vix elevata, spiraliter striata, maculis fuscis linearibus radiata; apice acuminato; apertura lata; columella lineari, distincta.*

*Hab.* Borneo (*Mus. Cuming*).

This species belongs to the same group with *C. spectrum*, but most nearly resembles *C. collisus*. From the latter, however, it is distinguished by the thread-like white lines of sulci crossing the interrupted bands of colour, giving a paved appearance to the ornamentation. Mr. Cuming possesses several specimens.

CONUS SAGITTATUS. Pl. XXXII. f. 8, 9. *Testa gracilis, longitudinaliter minute striata, spiraliter liris leviter elevatis subdistantibus cincta; alba, flammulis fuscis longitudinalibus seu angulatis et super liras maculis sagittatis regulariter picta; lateribus medio paululum coarctatis; spira conica, apice mucronato; unfractibus minute cancellatis, marginibus internis versus apicem elevatis; sutura lineari.*

*Hab.* —? (*Mus. Denisson*) (olim).

Although this elegantly formed, neatly sculptured, and delicately painted shell belongs to the same group with *C. marginatus*, *C. cancellatus*, &c., there is no known species with which it comes into immediate comparison. It has a cancellated sculpture formed by very delicate raised longitudinal lines crossing more raised and distant spiral ones; and besides the longitudinal flames and angular patches of light brown-colour, the spiral ridges are ornamented by a series

of minute arrow-headed markings of brown with white intervals. Purchased at the Denisson sale, and not yet placed.

CONUS MULTICATENATUS. Pl. XXXII. f. 10, 11. *Testa brevis, solida, acutangulata, lævis, alba, prope angulum distanter nigro maculata, fasciis latis duabus interruptis et linea textili interrupta mediana cincta; super fascias lineis fuscis, maculis rotundis albis catenatis ornata; lateribus rectiusculis; spira brevi, distanter et late maculata, anfractibus supra concavis.*

*Hab.* —? (*Mus. Denisson*) (olim).

A rather short shell, with straight sides; the spire flat, excepting close to the apex, where it becomes acuminate; but the top of the whorls are excavated. The angle is marked with distant angular black spots; above it is formed a sort of star by the centripetal bearing of six large chestnut spots. Upon the broad chestnut bands are chain-like cinctures formed of round or oval white spots interrupting dark lines. Purchased at the Denisson sale, and not yet placed.

#### DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XXXII.

Figs. 1, 2. *Scintilla semiclausa*.  
 3. — *oblonga*.  
 4. — *tactea*.  
 5, 6. — *rosea*.  
 7. *Pythina striatissima*.

Figs. 8, 9. *Conus sagittatus*.  
 10, 11. — *multicatenatus*.  
 12, 13. — *subcarinatus*.  
 14. — *straturatus*.

#### 5. ON THE HABITS OF THE WATER-SHREW (*CROSSOPUS FO- DIENS*). BY N. L. AUSTEN, ESQ.

I am induced to offer you the following account of the Water-Shrew, as the animal in question, though tolerably abundant in many localities, may not have come under the personal observation of some of my hearers. I have also never seen it mentioned as having been kept with success in confinement, and therefore will attempt to describe as accurately as possible the habits of a pair that lived in my possession for a considerable time, hoping that the details may not prove altogether uninteresting. In form this Shrew closely resembles the common species, the snout being lengthened in the same manner, and the fur having the same velvety softness of texture. In size, however, it is superior, a full-grown male measuring a little more than 5 inches in total length, whereas the Field-Shrew rarely exceeds 4 inches; the feet and tail are fringed with stiff white hairs, which are of great assistance to the creature when swimming. The colour on the head and back is commonly of a rich jetty black, on the sides and underparts pure white; the line of demarcation between the two colours very distinctly defined, adding much to the beauty of the fur; a small tuft of white hairs is also noticeable at the corner of the ear.

The Water-Shrew, as its name implies, is usually found in the vicinity of pools and rivulets, where it forms in the banks long and winding burrows, which penetrate for a considerable distance into